IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

In FIGs. 1, 4A, 4B, 5A and 5B, descriptive figure legends have been added as requested by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Replacement sheets for FIGs. 1, 4A, 4B, 5A and 5B are enclosed.

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 14-22, 25, 26, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, and 39-45 were pending in the application. In the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 11, 18, 31-32, 35, 37, and 45 have been amended, and claims 10, 16-17, and 43 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Objections

The Office Actions objected to claims 1, 35, 37, and 43 on the ground of informalities. In the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 35, and 37 have been amended to overcome the objections; and claim 43 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 21, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,914) in view of Hosur (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,882). The Office Action also rejected claims 6, 8, 20 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela, in view of Hosur and in further view of Komaili (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0002446A1). The Office Action also rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela in view of Hosur, and in further view of Weaver (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,526). The Office Action also rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela in view of Hosur, and in further view of Cho (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,633). The Office Action also rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela in view of Hosur, and in further view of Salvarani (U.S. Patent No. 6,760,597). The Office Action also rejected claims 19, 25, 26 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela in view of Hosur, and in further view of Halford (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,836). The Office Action further rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela in view of Hosur, and in further view of Lundh (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,180).

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PATENT

In the forgoing amendments, independent claim 1 has been amended to explicitly

incorporate limitations of claim 10, which was objected to in the Office Action, and is therefore

in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 31, 35, and 37 have been amended to include features analogous to

those recited in claim 1, and are in condition for allowance as well.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to explicitly incorporate limitations of claim 17

(and intervening claim 16), which was objected to in the Office Action, and is therefore in

condition for allowance.

Claim 18, which was objected to in the Office Action, has been rewritten in independent

form to explicitly incorporate limitations of its original base claim 11 (and intervening claim 16),

and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 32 has been amended to explicitly incorporate respective limitations of

claim 43, which was objected to in the Office Action, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 45 has been amended to include features analogous to those recited in

claim 32, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 3-9, 14-15, 19-22, 26-34, 39-42, and 44 each depend from one of

independent claims 1, 11, 31 and 32, and are allowable as well.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objected to claims 10, 17, 18 and 43 as being dependent upon a

rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the

indication of allowable subject matter.

<u>Drawings</u>

Applicants submit that the above amendments to the drawings do not make any

substantive changes or introduce any new material but are simply the correction of typographical

errors, which are consistent with the specification as originally submitted. Therefore, approval

and entry of the above amendments are respectfully requested.

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Specification

Applicants provide herewith amendments to the specification. The amendments to the specification are made by presenting marked up replacement paragraphs which identify changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

The changes made are primarily typographical or grammatical in nature, or involve minor clarifications of awkward wordings.

Applicants believe these changes add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/16/2006

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